Tala Hydel Project

2198. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power from 170 MW first generating unit of the Rs. 4,124 Tala Project in Bhutan has started flowing into India from September;

(b) if so, whether the beneficiaries include northern region States of U.P., Delhi, Punjab and J&K;

(c) whether the remaining units of 1020 MW projects slated for commissioning shortly, will also help India in getting more power from Bhutan; and

(d) by when, the rest of the units are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The first generating unit (170 MW) of Tala Project in Bhutan was commissioned on 29.7.2006 and the power has started flowing into India from August, 2006.

(b) Allocation of Tala power has been done to the States of Eastern Region to improve their hydro thermal mix and these States are to surrender equivalent thermal power (in lieu of allocation of Tala power) to the States of the Northern Region linked to the commissioning of various units of Tala project. The States likely to be benefited from the above arrangement are West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa in the Eastern Region and Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, U.P. and J&K in the Northern Region.

(c) 5 out of 6 units of Tala project have already been commissioned. As per the agreement between Government of India and Royal Government of Bhutan for Tala Project, power surplus of the requirement of Bhutan is to be sold to India.

(d) The last units is expected to be commissioned by end of March, 2007.

Plan to increase electricity generation

2199. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, while dedicating the 3000 MW Talchar Super Thermal Power Station to the nation, assured the nation to provide big investment in power sector during the next five years;